



West Georgia Masters of Law Scholarship Program

The West Georgia Masters of Law Scholarship Program aims to provide students from the western regions of Georgia who possess diverse backgrounds and limited means, the opportunity to pursue Master's level legal study at Batumi or Kutaisi State Universities. The Scholarship Program is funded by USAID's Judicial and Independence and Empowerment Project (JILEP) which is being implemented by East West Management Institute (EWMI). It is managed on the ground through a sub-grant given by JILEP to the local Georgian organization, the Foundation for the Support of Legal Education.

The program is designed to increase the interest of students in pursuing masters level law degrees in regional universities, serve as a motivator to improve teaching quality at Batumi and Kutaisi State Universities, and contribute to the advancement of legal education and legal practice in the western regions of Georgia. The scholarship covers tuition fees, books, and accommodation (where needed) for a maximum of four semesters. In addition to the scholarship, the recipients are given the opportunity to participate in a legal internship program and to engage in the annual program of the Foundation's Debate Club in Kutaisi and Batumi. Recipients receive legal training designed to complement and augment the education they receive from their university programs.

In November 2011, the Foundation, with the participation of JILEP, selected the first recipients of the award. These individuals will be pursuing their Masters of Law degrees at Kutaisi State University. Twenty students applied for the scholarship but only four were chosen. Short biographies of the winners are provided on the opposite side:



USAID | **GEORGIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EAST • WEST
MANAGEMENT
INSTITUTE

Akaki Tsereteli State University, Kutaisi, Georgia



Levan Vepkhvadze

Date of Birth: August 30, 1990

Place of Birth: Kutaisi, Georgia

Email: levaninevkhvadze@yahoo.com

Levan is an LL.M student at Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University faculty of social sciences specializing in criminal law. During his BA studies he participated in various seminars and trainings. In May 2009, he participated in the EU information seminar “Making sense of EU” where his topic “EU and Georgia” received a first place award. In 2010, Levan won the regional debate competition organized by the GYLA office in Kutaisi and later won the same competition at the national level. His most recent success was as a member of Kutaisi State University team which took second place honors at the first National Trial Advocacy Competition organized by EWMI-JILEP in December 2011.

Levan: “During my second year, I got involved in activity organized by the public prosecutor’s office which was a triggering point for my interest in becoming a prosecutor. Thus, my future professional plans are connected with prosecutor’s office. However, before becoming a prosecutor, I want to study more, get to know and analyze every change and amendment to the law, and most importantly, I want to have my own reasoned opinion on every single issue.”



Shorena is an LL.M student at Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University faculty of social sciences specializing in criminal law. During her BA studies, Shorena went through a 6-month internship at Kutaisi City Court. Shorena won a competition organized by the House of Justice and was a participant in a training on “Effective Communication and Conflict Management,” organized by the Learning Center of Justice.

Shorena: “As for my future professional plans, I want to obtain more theoretical and practical skills in criminal law. In the future I see myself working in the judiciary. After completing the internship and gaining certain knowledge and work experience, I consider this as a very interesting sphere to work in. I think that working in the court is connected with defending human rights and ensuring the rule of law, which is priority for me.”



Shorena Kostava

Date of Birth: July 24, 1990

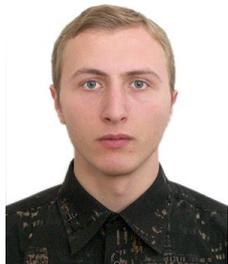
Place of Birth: Kutaisi, Georgia

Email: Kostava.shoka@mail.ru



Beka is an LL.M student at Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University faculty of social sciences specializing in criminal law. In 2010-2011 he was involved in a 6-month internship program at the Kutaisi Court of Appeals Criminal Law Chamber. In 2011, Beka participated in a moot court competition organized by the public prosecutor’s office and received the award for Best Participant.

Along with his interest in law, Beka is talented in the arts. He plays music, paints, and sculpts; he writes poetry. He is successful in the martial arts. Beka: “I am interested in criminal law, in particular the prosecution side, and want to work in a suitable institution. I chose this profession with my own initiative and desire as I have always been very interested in law. I want to become a qualified professional, a strong lawyer, and be valuable for myself, family and country. And I will do my best to achieve this goal.”



Beka KEBULADZE

Date of Birth: August 28, 1990

Place of Birth: Kutaisi, Georgia

Email: beqa.qebuladze@mail.ru

Nugzar is an LL.M student at Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University faculty of social sciences specializing in criminal law. During his BA studies he participated in the discussion circle on Human Rights issues organized by the Public Defender’s office and supported by UNDP.

Nugzari: “The education obtained helped me to form my personal approach towards criminal law issues. My aim is to become a knowledgeable and professionally respected attorney. Currently my goal is to deepen my knowledge and avail myself of all educational possibilities. I want to apply and implement all of that in my future career which will be somehow related to working with NGOs and international organizations defending human rights, building the rule of law, and developing and strengthening democracy.” Nugzari and his family are internally displaced from Abkhazia, Georgia.



Nugzar Chakhunashvili

Date of Birth: December 5, 1987

Place of Birth: Ochamchire,

Abkhazia, Georgia

Email: N/A